

SOCIETY BEGINNING TO RETURN TO TOWN.

Society is beginning to come back to the city. Not, perhaps, because any unusual activity in a social way is yet due, but it is almost September, and that's the month that marks the returns from the resorts, regardless of the weather.

Speaking of the weather, it has scarcely been worth while to leave the city for any length of time to escape a "hot spell." Indeed, we've had something of summer resort climate heretofore throughout the dreary months of July and August, and, aside from the change and resultant pleasures that one gets from a trip, the vacation season at the seashore and in the mountains has not been such a great boon to the St. Louis folk who ordinarily go away to court the cooling breezes of more comfortable climes.

In a few weeks the town will be quite lively again, and we may look for a busy fall and winter from the viewpoint of the gayety seeker.

Touching a subject that has come more or less into prominence recently, I have received the following communication:

Dear Serena Lamb: Will you kindly let us know in your Sunday column if it is a fact that young ladies to wear neckties with their sweethearts' or one of their young men friends' on them? I ask this for the reason that I have lately seen quite a few young and well-known ladies of the smart set wear men's four-in-hand ties with the initial of young men on them. If this is a new fad will you not kindly advise through the channels of your paper, so as to gratify the curiosity of some of your young lady readers? Your reply will be appreciated.

No, my dear young friends, it is not the proper thing for young ladies who have due self-respect to engage in such practices. It is not even a fad, in the sense of a recognized departure from the conventional, except—and this exception covers a multitude of little things that unthinking folk, and sometimes "society folk," are apt to view unkindly—the seeming offenders happen to be engaged!

If the young man whose initials adorn your tie chances to be your affianced husband, it may very rightfully be considered by you—and should so be looked upon by others—as quite a warranted little compliment or modesty shown him.

It is not a severe restriction to limit this necktie-lettering idea to your own initials, if you have no greater reason than mere friendship or a desire to appear "smart," for labeling the cravat with the embryonic name of any young man of your acquaintance.

Common sense, which means a preferred stock of brains, should be the guide of all young people who are confronted or confounded with these little displays of foolishness that courtesy too often dignifies with the not-to-dignified title of fads. A fad is a fad for one who knows its limits, and may be pleasing to that extent. For one not so informed, a fad is too frequently a lamentable showing of weak spots in the region of the brain, and, aside from being silly, it is now and then shocking.

Don't wear the initial ties produced by this latest "fad" unless you ultimately expect to wear the name altogether. In that case it may be, and probably is, a very pretty and proper show of affection. At least, there's no harm in it.

Down at Manhattan Beach the limit of the "initial" fad has been reached by the summer girl. She positively monogrammed from top to toe. Shirt waist bears a string of large letters on the right side. Long fore-and-aft is initialed on one end. Belt has three small letters right in the middle of the back, just above two epaulet flaps that hang over the placket. Chateau bag of suede has a new and nobly leather initial applied on at the bottom.

But this particular girl of whom my correspondent writes, deserves credit for the most original initial idea of the summer. Viewed from a distance of ten feet, as she sat on the beach in her bathing suit, she appeared to have a patch of white paper pasted on one round, brown arm just above the elbow. A closer inspection showed that she had cut her monogram out of paper, stuck it on her arm and was trying to sunburn the arm all about the monogram so that the latter would show up in good relief when she pulled off the paper. How's that for a novelty, you dear girls who like to do bizarre stunts occasionally? Put that at a summer resort and the initials are all her own. Quite different from those of her numerous beaux.

September wedding cards are beginning to arrive. There was a time not so many years ago when the coming month was considered quite as unfashionable a marriage time as Lent or August or May, but that has passed. Nowadays there are really no months set aside by the fashionables for the ceremony of marriage. The fall and the spring will ever be regarded by many as suitable, since at those times, more than at others, families are settled in their own homes, and not jaunting about at water resorts nor summer watering-places. But the last few years so many American families have acquired handsome places of residence for the summer season that Miss Daughter-of-the-House rightfully thinks a wedding with the man of her choice at the Westons' or the Bar Harbor villa or the Colorado ranch is eminently the thing and much more picturesque than a formal cut-and-dried church ceremony and



MISS ROBERTA SUMMERS.
No. 4233
COOK AVENUE.



PHOTOGRAPH BY CONKLING.

MISS HARRIET WILEY. — Photograph by Conkling.
Of St. Paul, who spent the early summer in St. Louis and frequently visits friends in town. Miss Wiley is one of the best-dressed girls of her city.

reception afterwards at the town place of abode.

So July ceremonies are by no means the oddities that they would have been five years ago; and a September wedding with all the early fall flowers for decoration, especially if one lives in the suburbs, appeals to me as being altogether delightful. I fancy the McKinzie-Gruet affair, cards for which are just out, will partake largely of all the charms which suburban Webster has to offer. Mr. and Mrs. John G. Gruet have an exceedingly pleasant house, which is where a reception will be given immediately after the service at 8 o'clock at the "Congregational Church in Webster. Miss Ruth Gruet is one of the suburb's handsomest girls, and ought to make a very stunning bride.

When the McKinzie brothers—there are three—built their comfortable and pleasant home, just overlooking the old Algonquin golf course, in Webster Park, about two years ago, they had determined upon a bachelor career—that is, each had so determined for himself. The house was fitted up accordingly. I think, however, that they so far bent to the conventionalities usually demanded by women as to build closets instead of insisting on merely clothes trees in the sleeping-rooms, as did one dyed-in-the-wool bachelor of Rhode Island whom I once met; and I further believe that the McKinzie household conforms to clothes and flowers in the vases. At all events, the bride-elect, who will make her advent into this masculine household next month, won't find them "set" as to hats or draperies and lamps, nor so finicky as to demand certain and peculiar articles of food for the McKinzie brothers are all young and all gentle gentlemen.

Another set of nuptial announcements arrived in yesterday's mail, those of Samuel

Couples Pierce and Miss Elizabeth Plummer, whose engagement I announced a fortnight ago, while the affianced ones were at Newport. By the by, it is now considered as all in the East to abide the time between the announcement of the engagement and the wedding as much as possible; and a month is deemed the proper period, not more. The Pierce-Plummer wedding will take place in New York, where the bride's mother, Mrs. William Henry Plummer, lives, and will be a 4 o'clock afternoon ceremony at St. Matthew's Church.

From Charlevoix comes the intelligence of another engagement—that of Miss Louise Chamberlin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Chamberlin, of No. 319 Lucas avenue, St. Louis, to Mr. Charles J. Warren, of San Pedro, a son of the late Hon. Charles Warren, a son of the late Hon. William Warren of Lansing, Mich., who will perform the ceremony of September 23 at the summer home of the Chamberlins, where Mrs. Warren gave a highly festive one through both the East and the West, after which Mr. Warren and his Northern bride will go to their far-away home in Central America.

Mrs. D. H. Woods and her two daughters, Caroline and Adelaide, who are summering on the Maine coast, have just been off on the Butlers' yacht, Duquesne, for a five days' cruise with Colonel and Mrs. Butler. They visit during the well-known places along the coast—Bar Harbor, Bangor, Deer Island and some of the Penobscot Bay towns, and then came back to Rockland, Me., where Mrs. Woods gave a highly festive one through both the East and the West, after which Mr. Warren and his Northern bride will go to their far-away home in Central America.

Here are two new salads to try when you positively can't think of anything to eat. If your late roses are still in bloom take a small cupful of the freshest petals you get, leave them over carefully to free from the small but unpleasant bug and worm, and then put them in a half-pint of cream and work about with your wooden chafing-dish spoon to bruise them. When the cream is well scented, strain out the petals, heap some freshly sliced peaches on a dish, sprinkled with sugar, and over which a glass of sherry or port wine has been poured. Over all pour the ice cream, directly on top of a block of ice, until needed. In strawberry time this fruit may be used instead of the peaches.

Bananas make another delicious salad if they are a favorite fruit in the family. Peel six bananas, slice "em the long way and then divide each piece again, making strips about three inches in length. Peel two oranges, carefully removing all the white pith, and then slice into a glass bowl with the bananas, taking out seeds as you slice. Add a squeeze of lemon juice, a large teaspoonful of curacao, a dust of powdered sugar, or more than a dust if turning the fruit once or twice during that time.

Why the flower hats have not had a greater vogue in St. Louis this summer I do not know, for they are certainly more than pretty and smart, becoming, if one finds a flower that suits in color. The only one that I have seen at all is that which Mrs. Gouverneur Calhoun wears—a small affair, made of royal blue bachelorette.

Weddings trips, so the Eastern fashion potatoes declare, are quite passé. The smart set goes no more on honeymoon jaunts, but resumes the customary round of social pleasures, taking up life the day after the ceremony, exactly as if the bridal pair were still two instead of one. Peter Martin and Lily O'Brien came back to Newport after their big shot, and immediately gathered together a dinner party. Robert Collier and Sara Van Allen embarked on a yacht, stayed two days, weighed anchor at Narragansett, announced that the wedding journey was at an end, and are established with the senior Colliers at the Pier.

It's not a bad idea, this dispensing with prolonged European trips, tireless traveling half across a continent, or perhaps two, and a six or eight weeks' lingering at some specified resort, because, forsooth, the two

as honeymooning and must do it as custom has dictated. So prolonged a tete-a-tete may well be deferred until the two get to know each other better, and more perfectly understand each other's fads and foibles. Deducedly, this taking up the threads immediately after the ceremony is infinitely more judicious.

A Westminster place girl showed me a pretty boucree she decorated herself. It was of heavy blue cotton cloth, inexpensive, but a good, deep, rich blue and stylish. On this she had sketchedly painted yellow jonquils and their long, slender green leaves. The effect was excellent and the cover cost her just 30 cents.

Have you a black moire ribbon belt in the new style? If not, get three yards and a half of 2 1/2-inch moire and cut off a piece for a straight belt, the length of your waist. Allow two or three inches for crossing in front or else to slip into a fancy buckle. If you have one. In the middle of the ribbon, which will come in the back, sew a large bow, made with two short, stiff loops that stand up, two longer loops that hang down, and one end also to hang down, the whole fastened in the center with a big, loose knot. The entire length of this back now ought to be about half a yard. It is immensely decorative and a good addition to either a light cotton frock or a woolen skirt that is to be worn with short waists. I shall wear that hanging down, and one end also to hang down, the whole fastened in the center with a big, loose knot. The entire length of this back now ought to be about half a yard. 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